



**NORTHCENTRAL UNIVERSITY
ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEET**

Student: **Michael Higley-Vance**

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETELY FILLED IN

Follow these procedures: If requested by your instructor, please include an assignment cover sheet. This will become the first page of your assignment. In addition, your assignment header should include your last name, first initial, course code, dash, and assignment number. This should be left justified, with the page number right justified. For example:

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Save a copy of your assignments: You may need to re-submit an assignment at your instructor's request. Make sure you save your files in accessible location.

Academic integrity: All work submitted in each course must be your own original work. This includes all assignments, exams, term papers, and other projects required by your instructor. Knowingly submitting another person's work as your own, without properly citing the source of the work, is considered plagiarism. This will result in an unsatisfactory grade for the work submitted or for the entire course. It may also result in academic dismissal from the University.

EDU7003-8

Dr. Rebecca Watts

Statistics

Activity #6: Population in the News

Michael, good summary of the survey results reported in the article that you read. I have provided some explanation of the concepts of margin of error and confidence intervals as they apply to the context of the analyses reported in the article. I hope this helps with your understanding of these concepts. Let me know if you have any questions.

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Dropp and Cohen

In 1993 Democratic nominee Bill Clinton became President of the United States and in an effort to fulfill one of his champagne promises he faced much opposition from all sides of the political fence, which would allow gays to serve openly in the U.S. military armed forces.

Although the President believed homosexuals should be able to serve, 45 percent of his own political party opposed lifting the ban (Dropp & Cohen, 2008) however, 55 percent of the Democratic Party was in support of the policy change, at that time. In addition, 56 percent of Independents and 75 percent of Republicans also opposed changing the policy (Dropp & Cohen, 2008). The most recent poll conducted in 2008 on the topic showed that the American people have become more tolerable of openly gay men and women.

Political Party

According to a Washington Post-ABC News poll, conducted in 2008, seventy-five percent of Americans polled said that men and women who are openly gay should be allowed to serve in the U.S. military (Dropp & Cohen, 2008). This report is up 13 percent from 2001 and up an overwhelmingly 31 percent from 1993. In 2008 support from Republicans had doubled since 1993, going from 32 to 64 percent, and eight in 10 Democrats supported the idea (Dropp & Cohen, 2008). The data shows that the majority of political parties now believe it is suitable for homosexuals to serve in the U.S. military.

Gender

According to all three ABC polls on the issue, women have shown over time to be more apt than men to support gays in the military with only twenty percent still in opposition of the

policy change compared with only one-third of men. In 1993, half of women supported this stance; nearly two-thirds of men opposed it (Dropp & Cohen, 2008).

Other

According to the 2008 ABC poll large age and education majorities now support allowing openly gay individuals to serve in the military (Dropp & Cohen, 2008). Seventy-two percent of Americans polled indicated that faculty and staff in educational institutions should be protected from discrimination, which was up 23 percent from a poll taken in 1987 by the Pew Research Center (Dropp & Cohen, 2008). Furthermore, only forty-three percent of white evangelical Protestants were found to be in opposition of allowing openly gay service members in the military, compared with only 18 percent of white Catholics and 20 percent of those with no declared religious affiliation.

Conclusion

The summary of this article discussed three polls conducted by the Washington Post-ABC News, which reported percentages, sample demographics, sampling errors, and margin of error. A sample, which is a subset of the population from which the data was actually obtained was selected and analyzed (Bennett, Briggs, & Triola, 2009). The American people polled, declaring at the time of the poll their political affiliation, constituted a reasonable sample, $N = 1119$ (Dropp & Cohen, 2008). The overall margin of error, a statistic that expresses the amount of random sampling error in a surveys result (Bennett, Briggs, & Triola, 2009), was plus or minus 3 percentage points (Dropp & Cohen, 2008). The margin of error identifies a range where the true population mean is likely to exist. Typically, the larger number of people surveyed, the smaller the margin of error for the same confidence interval. However, according to polling analyst Jennifer Agiesta, there is a greater margin of error for larger subgroups.

Let me explain the meaning of the margin of error. One of the statistics that you reported was as follows:

“Furthermore, only forty-three percent of white evangelical Protestants were found to be in opposition of allowing openly gay service members in the military, compared with only 18 percent of white Catholics and 20 percent of those with no declared religious affiliation. “
With a 3 point margin of error, this means that between 40% and 46% of white evangelical Protestants were found to be in opposition of allowing openly gay service members in the military..... Thus, if you took 100 samples from the same population, the population mean percentage of white evangelical Protestants who opposed allowing openly gay service members in the military would be between 40% and 46% in 95 of the 100 samples (95% confidence interval). Thus the lower limit of the 95% confidence interval is 40% and the upper limit for the 95% confidence interval is 46%. I hope this explains the meaning of these concepts.

References

- Bennett, J., Briggs, W., & Triola, M. (2014). *Statistical reasoning for everyday life*. (4th ed.) Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.
- Dropp, K. & Cohen, J. (2008, July 19). Acceptance of gay people. [online news article]. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/18/AR2008071802561_pf.html